

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEN'S SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING THE 2005 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the University of Maryland Men's Soccer Team, the 2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association Champions. The Maryland Terrapins claimed the 2005 NCAA Championship, 1-0, over the University of New Mexico Lobos at SAS Complex in Cary, North Carolina, on December 11, 2005.

The University of Maryland Men's Soccer Team has had a very successful season of which we can all be proud. In addition to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championship, the Terrapins won the 2005 Atlantic Coast Conference Regular Season Championship and had an overall record of 19-4-2. They also set a school record of 66 goals. Additionally, the Maryland Terrapins are the first team since 1992 to win the tournament as the number one seed.

The Terrapins' Men's Soccer Program has a history of successes. In just the past four seasons, the Terps have amassed 76 wins, the most in the NCAA during the 4-year span. In addition, the Terrapins won their first national soccer title in 1968, when it shared the title with Michigan State.

The coaches who have led the Terrapins to victory are Head Coach Sasho Cirovsky, Assistant Coach Russell Payne, and Assistant Coach Rob Vartughian. Also assisting the team were Associate Athletics Director Shawn Flynn, Trainer Terry Gee, and Adam Zundell with Sports Information. University of Maryland Athletics Director Debbie Yow was also essential to their success.

The gifted athletes include the following University of Maryland students: Spencer Allen, Matt Beckman, Kenney Bertz, Marc Burch, Robbie C'deBaca, Kwame Darko, A.J. Delagarza, Michael Dello-Russo, Maurice Edu, Jason Garey, David Glaudemans, A.J. Godbolt, Aki Kadotani, Stephen King, Chris Lancos, Michael Marchiano, Kevin Reiman, Doug Rodkey, Robbie Rogers, Craig Salvati, Chris Seitz, Kevin Tangney, Michael Vallie, Pat Wilson, and Graham Zusi.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to promoting discipline and health, collegiate athletics provide a wonderful training ground for future leaders and I expect that we will see great things come from these young men in the future. I applaud the University of Maryland's 2005 Men's Soccer Team on its success.

SAGO MINE COAL MINING ACCIDENT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all West Virginians, our hearts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of those who are trapped in the Sago Mine in Upshur County, West Virginia. We extend our hope that families will be reunited and lives will be saved.

Once again, when it mattered most, West Virginians have risen to the occasion. The men and women who are tirelessly dedicating their efforts to recovering our fellow Americans are to be commended and applauded. The community that is extending their support to the families and friends who are patiently waiting at this critical time are also helping in this difficult and tenuous time.

Though we are all anxiously anticipating their safe return, I urge everyone to take a moment and ask our Creator for his full support in these efforts. As a West Virginian, I am proud of the way both our state leaders and residents have responded to this disaster.

30 YEARS OF JOURNALISTIC LEADERSHIP

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin, Ms. BALDWIN, and the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. FRANK, I submit these remarks commemorating a very important anniversary in the historic struggle of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people for equal treatment under the law.

Thirty years ago, in 1976, the notion of organized activity to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity was an extremely controversial one. No where in America did lesbian, gay or bisexual people have any legal protections against being dismissed or otherwise disadvantaged in the job market. Eleven years before that, when Congress passed what was generally considered to be a liberalization of U.S. immigration law, that law included on the recommendation of Democratic Presidents and adopted without dissent in a Democratic Congress a tightening on the prohibition against gay or lesbian people even being tourists in the United States. Here in the Congress, no serious effort was underway to deal with the severe legal and other handicaps that were imposed on our fellow gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizens.

But the stirrings of change were apparent for those who look closely. One of the most

important examples of this was an event little noticed at the time, but which has turned out to be of great significance in the ongoing battle against homophobia. On January 26, 1976, a courageous, thoughtful, committed young gay man named Mark Segal presided over the publication of the first issue of the Philadelphia Gay News.

PGN is now widely known for its leadership role in one of the great fights for social justice that has marked recent American history. It was started in a rundown building at 13th and Locust Streets in Philadelphia, a building which lacked plumbing and electricity. What it did not lack was heart and brains. From the outset, under the leadership of Mark Segal, PGN has been a strong force for fairness in our society.

It was under PGN's auspices that the first mayoral forum was held in Philadelphia where all of the candidates for that office spoke to the issues facing the LGBT community. Later PGN organized the first AIDS awareness day in the city, and it has grown both in size and influence throughout its history.

Mark Segal deserves congratulations for his role as the sole owner and publisher of PGN for 30 uninterrupted years—a longevity record for LGBT newspapers, and an admirable record for any media outlet in these days of increasing corporatization and the diminution of journalistic independence.

The work of Mark Segal and PGN has been honored by a wide range of organizations, including LGBT advocacy groups, and professional journalistic associations. They include the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association; The Society for News Design; and The Society for Professional Journalists.

Emblematic of Mark Segal's refusal to accept anything less than equality for himself and members of the LGBT community is the fact that he now sits on the Board of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association, which for 15 years had refused to allow PGN even to join. Mr. Speaker, as the Member of the House in whose district PGN is published, I speak from personal experience of its importance as a respected and invaluable source of information, much of which would otherwise go unpublished. And I know that my colleagues from Wisconsin and Massachusetts share my high opinion of the extraordinary important role that PGN plays in our fight against prejudice.

Mr. Speaker, for 30 years, in the face of a good deal of initial hostility and subsequent indifference at best, Mark Segal and PGN have shone the light on sexual orientation and gender identity prejudice not just in the United States but in the world, and have helped to diminish it—although we obviously have a long way to go. I am very proud to be able to salute this important pioneer in the fight for social justice, and to express my confidence, and that of my colleagues from Wisconsin and Massachusetts, that as long as there is a need to combat homophobia, we will be able to count on PGN's leadership role.

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